

We are: On the Move

■ Page 2 Students at Valley Elementary School are wrapping up a very active year.



We are: Showing our Pride

■ Page 3 Students in Valley Middle School's Alternative and Transitional Programs had a year that was as busy as it was fantastic.



We are: Adaptive

■ Page 8 Five individuals in Valley's Adult Program went to an Assistive Technology Fair to learn about devices that can help people with disabilities.

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Volume 13, Issue 4 News for the extended Valley Collaborative community Summer 2025

At Valley, We Love What We Do!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. CHRIS SCOTT GIVING RAY BUSBY GOLDEN KEYS TO VALLEY COLLABORATIVE. A VALLEY VETERAN, RAY JOINED THE ADULT PROGRAM IN 1994.

Dear Valley Community: Valley's focus on high quality leadership makes the difference. Each year the Dr. Anthony Bent Leadership Award is given to a Valley employee who exemplifies leadership qualities and has made a significant difference to the climate and culture of the collaborative. This award is named in honor of Dr. Anthony Bent. Dr. Bent is a dedicated educator who held central office positions in Watertown and was superintendent in Shrewsbury for fifteen years. In 2008-2009, Dr. Bent was president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). Having previously served

(2012-2014) on the Valley Collaborative Board of Directors during his interim superintendency at Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, Dr. Bent has been a long-time supporter and advocate for the great work done at Valley Collaborative. For over a decade, Dr. Bent has facilitated Valley's "Leadership at Every Level" professional development series. This coming year we will, once again, welcome Dr. Bent to share his knowledge and expertise with Valley Administrators and future Administrators.

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Elementary School: What a Year!

It's been quite a year at Valley Elementary. From adventurous field trips to new clubs and more spirit weeks than we can count, we're ending the 2024-2025 school year on a high note. Here's a look at some of the highlights.

January 10th: **Roller Kingdom.**

The school participated in a field trip to a roller rink in Tyngsboro, giving students the opportunity to practice perseverance as they learned how to skate.

February 10th: **Acton Discovery Center Event:** The Acton Discovery Center Traveling Science Program returned to Valley to run hands-on science workshops.

February 10th-14th: **Love and Kindness Spirit Week**—Valley's annual celebration of all things kindness.

March 3rd-7th: **Read Across America Week.** We celebrated Read Across America Week with a reading themed spirit week, door decorating, guest readers, book fair, and other activities to celebrate and promote literacy.

April 4th: **Skateboard Physics Assembly.** A follow-up to our popular presentation on the physics of motion as demonstrated through skateboarding!

April 14th-17th: **Autism Acceptance Spirit Week.** We capped off the week with our annual Autism Acceptance Walk.

May 5th: **Rock Out for Reading** - an assembly geared towards inspiring students to pursue reading as a lifelong adventure through songs and stories.

May 12th-16th: **Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week.** We celebrated our coping skills and explored new skills, encouraging self-care and emotional regulation.

Fishing Club

Thanks to paraprofessional Nick Cote Valley Elementary has a popular new Fishing Club. Students explore local waterways, gain knowledge about different fish species, and develop essential skills like casting, knot tying, and understanding water ecosystems. "Most of them never expected there could be big fish lurking just beneath the surface, so when they feel that tug on the line, it's a thrilling surprise," says Nick, who founded and runs the club. "The look on their faces when they reel in a big bass is priceless—pure excitement and pride." Beyond learning fishing techniques, the club fosters teamwork, patience, and environmental awareness, while also creating lasting memories and friendships. Whether it's a quiet afternoon by the water or the rush of landing a big catch, the Valley Collaborative Fishing Club offers an unforgettable experience where kids build confidence and a deeper connection to nature. ■



JASON KATMADEU-WENDEU, THIRD GRADER, AT WE ROCK THE SPECTRUM.



FIRST GRADER CARTER LEWIS SHOWS OFF HIS CATCH.

A few of our favorite things

Louis Lorino, sixth grade, "Legos and friends."

Brian Bolcome, fourth grade, "Fishing Club and field trips."

William Desousa-Diaz, fourth grade, "Fishing, camping, hiking and Mr. Matt!"

Nate Skuse, fourth grade, "Using computers and playing games with friends."

Marnie Stone, fifth grade, "Everything is fun and educational!"

Sophia Stewart, fourth grade, "My Friends."

CJ Lillie, third grade, "Basketball and football."

Colton Tyler, first grade, "Pizza, trade-in, friends and teachers."

Lindsey Lavanga, fifth grade, "Horseback riding and swimming. Swimming is fun. I like it."

David Makayi, first grade, "Going out in the nice weather and bug hunting."

Valley Middle School: A Busy Year, A Fantastic Year

The 2024-2025 school year kept students in the Middle School's Alternative Program busy both academically and while in the community. In their core academic classes, students were challenged across all content areas. Students solved a 13-year old mystery while reading "The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby" by G.Z. Schmidt and gained a better understanding of the parts of the plot in books. They even learned to identify the parts independently in their own books! Mysteries were a huge hit this year. In Science class, students had the opportunity to participate in a STEM project each week! Alka-Seltzer lava lamps and the Egg Drop competition were highlights. Many of our budding engineers' eggs survived the drop off the school roof. Students were able to use coordinates to plot mystery pictures in math as well as participate in a mock restaurant where orders were taken, bills paid and everyone got a little hungry. In History class, there was a heavy focus on civics this year. Students

were challenged to create their own countries including laws, flags, and citizen's rights.

When not in core classes, students enjoyed electives such as basketball, soccer, Geoguesser, and cooking (always with delicious results)! Students even got to adventure out into the community for fun, educational trips at Metro Rock, Altitude Trampoline Park, Honey Pot Hill Orchards, In the Game, the Illusion Museum, Franklin Park Zoo and others! "Valley is the best school. We have fun and we love getting outside! My favorite trip this year was Altitude and I really liked going fishing", stated 7th grader, Anthony Estrada.

The Outdoor Education Club made a resurgence and the club summited mountains such as Mt. Watatic, Mt. Wachusett, North Mountain, Prospect Hill and even Mt. Monadnock! Way to go, team! Sixth grader, Colton Knowlton shared that, "The staff are nice and the best part is the school store and the trips! I really liked going hiking with Pete and Aidan."

As always, the holidays played a large part in the middle school community. At Halloween, students showed off their costumes, raced to eat donuts on a string, and did a mummy race. At Thanksgiving, the program celebrated with a dinner served by teachers and administrators. Students even wrote what they were thankful for and decorated our Thankful Tree. During the winter holidays, students decorated the Christmas tree, participated in the gingerbread house competition, and made gifts for loved ones at You're Fired. Students were certainly busy learning and growing! Let's do it again next year!

Students in the Middle School's Transitional Program had a fantastic and busy school year as well. Here are some of the highlights that the students wanted to share. In Shana Dunlevy's classroom, students raved about the field trips. The group sledding trip was an absolute blast. "My favorite was sledding and going fast. We built a giant jump and all had so much fun", exclaimed 8th grader Keegan Graham when asked to share a highlight from the year. In Victoria Clauson's class, one of the favorite activities this school year was cooking class. Seventh grader Eli Sanchez shared, "My favorite memory that I made this year was cooking class, especially when I got to cook with my friends". Students in Dana Watford and Tina Carrabba's class shared that they had fun making Mother's Day gifts, which tied a Science lesson into an art project. Roman Beyer-Beckford exclaims, "Mom is going to love my plant!" We are looking forward to more fun and adventure in the upcoming school year. ■



VICTORIA CLAUSEN'S STUDENTS ENJOYING THE TREATS MADE IN COOKING CLASS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDRES DIAZ, LUCHIEN MOORE, ARIANNA ARIAS, LIANNA WARNER, GABE DUENAS, DENIS MORIS

Valley Transitional High School, Transitional Programs: Independence, Here We Come!

The theme at Valley Transitional High School this year has been ‘independence.’ Thanks to the hard work of Vocational Coordinator, Scott Morin, more students are being placed in internships that correspond to their interests. Scott says that the surge in placements reflects both the rebound of Valley’s vocational programming after COVID and the students’ hard work. “We have a number of students who’ve been in classes for a few years and have shown a lot of growth,” says Scott. “They’re gaining in confidence and independence and were ready to take the next step.” The next step is going from working on a vocational jobsite with a job coach to having an internship in the community utilizing the supervisor of the company or business as the natural support. They are working independently in the surrounding communities gaining experience for when they leave Valley.

Kai Steil-Ng is one of them. During his time at the Transitional High School, Kai demonstrated a passion for all things mechanical and a real desire to be challenged. Once Kai settled on diesel engine repair as something he was eager to try, Scott reached out to a local repair shop to try to get him an internship. “He’s been there almost six months and it has worked out really well,” says Scott. “Now they’re looking to hire him part time.”

Brandon Taipe discovered his love of cooking while working at the Bistro downstairs at Valley. After he decided that it was time to expand his culinary skills, Scott reached out on his behalf to the manager of the 99 Restaurant nearby. One thing led to another and before long Brandon had been

granted an internship in the kitchen, assisting with prep, and a chef’s coat to match. “He told his parents and the rest of the team that he absolutely loves going to work,” says Scott.

Nathan Dunham is yet another success story. After he indicated his desire to work independently, Scott and other team members began searching for possible positions near Nathan’s home in Hudson. These days, Nathan takes his electric scooter to a nearby Shaws, where he works during the week as well as on the weekends. While he began with janitorial work, managers at the store have indicated that there are opportunities for advancement.

While Scott’s tireless advocacy is a major reason for these successful placements, he’s quick to credit all of the other staffers at Valley who are part of its unique team-based approach. Vocational staff, therapists and teachers work together to assess students’ readiness for vocational next steps. Some students know exactly what they’d like to do, says Scott, in which case it’s time to begin reaching out to employers. For those students who aren’t yet settled on a particular field or position, the team presents them with opportunities. Scott also credits community partners who’ve bought into the mission at Valley for being willing to consider student interns. “They want to see the kids be successful,” says Scott. “They also appreciate that we’re there to provide supports and guidance if the student needs them.”

However the process plays out, it’s working—and so are a growing number of Valley students. ■



BRANDON TAIPE IN THE KITCHEN AT THE 99 RESTAURANT IN BILLERICA.

Vocational Placement Sites

99 Restaurant, Billerica MA
Merrimack Valley Truck Service, Tyngsboro MA
Shaws, Hudson MA
Dynamic Computers, Medford MA
Ocean State Job Lot, Tewksbury and North Reading MA
Strongwater Farm, Tewksbury MA
Mem Tea, Wakefield MA
Pro-Fitness, Billerica MA
Trader Joes, Nashua NH
Bitty and Beaus, Cambridge MA
Tewksbury Auto, Tewksbury MA
Market Basket, Billerica MA

Valley Transitional High School, Alternative Programs: Many Paths to Success

The Transitional High School Alternative Programs are celebrating another successful year, as students in all three of our sites are finding their way and planning for the future. Here's a look at three students who exemplify Valley's individualized approach.

Career readiness in action

Madison Murray, an eleventh grader in the Vocational Program, represents a Valley first: dual enrollment in the nursing program at Northern Essex Community College. "I've always been interested in nursing," says Madison. "I brought it up to the staff at Valley and they helped me figure out how to do it." Combining course work at Valley and NECC, Madison is now about to take her CNA test. Most importantly, she'll be closing out her time at Valley ready to have a career.



VOCATIONAL STUDENT MADISON MURRAY WILL LEAVE VALLEY PREPARED TO BEGIN A NURSING CAREER.

"Our vocational program is all about career readiness," explains Principal Nick LeClair. "This experience means that when Madison leaves Valley she'll be able to live independently."

Choosing a path

While some students arrive at Valley with a clear sense of what they want to do after graduation, the majority do not. The unique structure of the program helps facilitate a process of exploration. In addition to the vocational program where students can try their hands at a variety of occupations, including carpentry, landscaping, culinary arts and digital media. Two sites, Psi for underclassmen and Delta for eleventh and twelfth graders, help students choose a path for high school and what comes after.

Matt Maille is currently a Psi tenth grader and is already thinking ahead to life after school. "When students pick a site for eleventh and twelfth grade, we're focused on what feels right for them, here at Valley and in the future," explains Nick. Matt is considering moving into the vocational program because a hands-on job in a field such as construction appeals to him. He also likes the teachers in the program. "The staff and student personalities mesh well," says Matt, singling out one staff member for special praise. "Daniel MacDonald is a real one." Nick says that the staff think just as highly of Matt. "He's a quiet leader and beloved on his site." And while Matt still hasn't made a final decision about a site for the next school year, the decision making process is part



BILLY COCHRAN RECENTLY MADE THE DRACUT HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM.

of what makes Valley's approach so effective, says Nick. "Students in all of our programs have access to the same opportunities. The question is what is going to be best for the individual student?"

A better fit—and a hit

Billy Cochran started at Valley's Transitional High School but was convinced that the school's alternative programming would be a better fit for him. Fast forward a year and that assessment has proven correct. A 10th grader in the Delta Program, Billy is excelling at his academics and has already made the high honor roll three times. He's especially passionate about physics and STEM, and has already started to think about where he might like to go to college. His proudest accomplishment this school year has been back in Dracut, his home school district, where Billy tried out for and made the high school baseball team. "My first time at bat I got a hit," says Billy. "We're very proud of him," says Nick. "Billy is a great friend to everyone on his site, and to see him doing so well in his classes and now on the baseball field is really something." ■

Valley School Trip, 2025

Destination: Montreal, Canada



AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF VALLEY'S SCHOOL TRIP TO MONTREAL: LEARNING ABOUT GRAFFITI AND DESIGNING OUR OWN HATS.

On May 12, 2025, our Valley travelers hopped on a bus and started their journey on their 11th annual adventure. This time our final destination was Montreal, Canada! A total of twenty-eight individuals from Valley's Adult Program and Transitional High School made the trek across the northern border. It was truly a trip for all interests.

We spent the week learning about Montreal's history. We found the Pointe-a-Calliere, the Archaeological Museum, quite interesting. We learned about North America's first collector sewer and the people who lived in Montreal during the 1830's. St. Patrick's church and Notre Dame Basilica were exquisite sights to see.

We enjoyed the many picture taking viewpoints, especially at the top of Mount Royal, the highest point in Montreal. Our ghost tour was a fun way to see Old Montreal's sites too. When asking Nora Bailey about her favorite moments on the trip, she exclaimed, "The ghost tour! I liked learning about the history and I have watched videos about other ghost stories too".

Montreal's Science Centre, Bio Dome and Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium were a big hit with our travelers. We especially liked the Science Centre as it gave us the opportunity to learn with our hands and explore life science, human evolution and participate in an immersive quest of the Great Canadian North. Student Dylan Tran said, "I liked seeing the fish at the Bio Dome."

We got to express ourselves and show our creativity through graf-

2025 Valley School Trip by the Numbers

Number of Valley sites that participated in the trip: 2

Number of travelers: 28

Distance from Valley to Montreal, Canada: 295 miles

Top elevation of Mount Royal: 768 feet

Year that the first collector sewer for rainwater was constructed in Montreal: 1832

Number of trips taken by Valley travelers: 11.

Valley School Trip, 2025

Destination: Montreal, Canada



THE BELL CENTRE OF THE MONTREAL CANADIENS HOCKEY TEAM WAS A FAN FAVORITE FOR THE VALLEY TRAVELERS

fiti. We learned how to do different techniques and create graffiti on our very own hats.

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The individuals and students especially enjoyed this activity and proudly wore their hats the rest of the trip.

The Sugar Shack or *La Sucrierie de la Montagne* was another great way to immerse ourselves in French Canadian culture. We learned how maple syrup is made and enjoyed French Canadian folk music and traditional cuisine. Nora Bailey said “The Sugar Shack’s pancakes and

maple syrup were so good!” We got to participate in traditional French Canadian music and were given a lesson on playing wooden spoons during a song.

Lastly, touring the Bell Centre of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team was a fan favorite. We got to go behind the scenes and tour the Canadiens’ locker room, learn how the ice is made and how the venue sets up for concerts. Our group was very engaged with our tour guide and was even able to give them reminders that we are big BRUINS fans! Being one of our sports super fans, student Kayden Bovardi said without a doubt that, “the Bell Centre was my favorite.”

Overall, it was a great historical

2025 Valley School Trip Highlights

Touring the Bell Center of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team.

The Sugar Shack or *La Sucrierie de la Montagne* for pancakes.

Montreal’s Science Centre, Bio Dome and Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium

Pointe-a-Calliere Archaeological Museum

Mount Royal, the highest point in Montreal

Adult Services: Exploring Assistive Technology

The Valley Collaborative Adult Program is regularly seeking out opportunities for the individuals to learn about new technology and initiatives that can help them with every day life, while also learning about new and exciting ways to receive standardized, on-going support. Recently, five individuals attended an Assistive Technology Fair hosted by the Northeast Arc at the Liberty Tree Mall. This event gave the individuals the chance to learn about a range of assistive technology products from 30 vendors.

Northeast Arc, a nonprofit which helps people with disabilities become full participants in the community; choosing for themselves how to live, learn, work, socialize and play, sees Assistive Technology enabling people to live productive, meaningful, and dignified lives. According to the

group, “Assistive Technology can enhance an individual’s ability to perform daily tasks, facilitate independent living, and contribute to a higher quality of life.”

The individuals who attended the event got the chance to see and learn about medication management devices, communication devices and software, mobility aids, smart home technology, remote supports, adaptive gaming and recreation, and more.

Jenilee Lopez was one of the Valley individuals who made the trip to Danvers, said that she was impressed by what she saw at the Assistive Technology Fair. “It was pretty cool. I saw a lot of different things and it was very interesting. I liked seeing all the technology and how it will help all the individuals,” says Jenilee. “I like how everything there could help people be more independent. Even for people who can’t speak they had a bunch of different things that could help them communicate.”

While not every individual served by Valley Collaborative uses Assistive Technology in their everyday life, new and creative ideas are regularly being introduced to the populations served by DDS and can create a drastic change in an individual’s life. As an example, Valley supports an individual who utilizes remote check-ins with an outside agency through smart home technology. This allows for a new level of independence for the individual as they receive necessary supports through a remote system and therefore is able to operate with a new level of independence while still having regular check-ins to ensure safety and care.

Many of the initiatives presented at the Assistive Technology Fair are still in their infancy. However, the



FIVE INDIVIDUALS FROM VALLEY'S ADULT PROGRAM RECENTLY TRAVELED TO DANVERS TO ATTEND NORTHEAST ARC'S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR. IN BACK: BRIAN, GREG AND JACOB. IN FRONT: JENILEE AND KAITLYN.

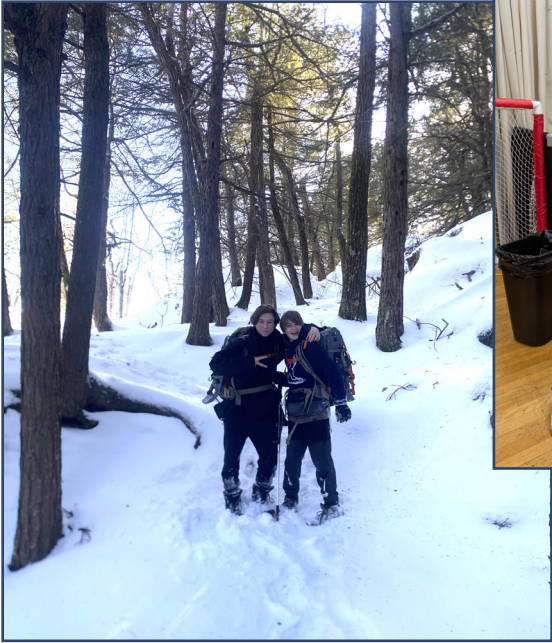


INDIVIDUALS IN VALLEY'S ADULT PROGRAMS CHECK OUT SOME OF THE OFFERINGS ON DISPLAY AT THE NORTHEAST ARC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAIR.

more awareness that can be brought to them and the more opportunity the individuals and their families have to access these products and services, the more personal growth that can be achieved. This happens through providing individuals with tools necessary to operate at their highest level without compromising the level of support they receive.

Services provided for Adults with Disabilities have come a long way over the years, but it is never enough to get complacent and be satisfied with the supports out there. It is imperative that individuals and their support teams continue to advocate for new and creative ways to help individuals maximize their potential while getting their specific needs met. The DDS Assistive Technology Fair was a great way to facilitate this process. ■

Valley Collaborative 2024-2025: Our Year in Pictures



VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LOGAN STURGIS
AND COLTON KNOWLTON ON A WINTER HIKE.



4TH GRADER NELSON
LOZADA WITH VISIT-
ING BARBER PHILL
MCNULTY



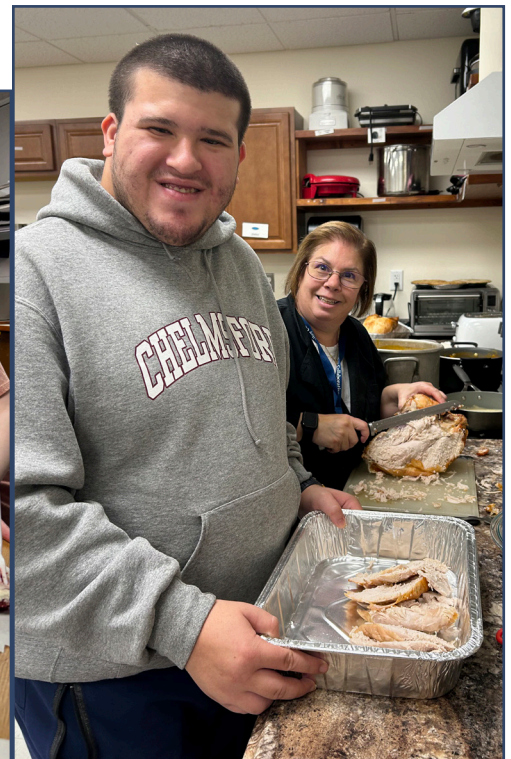
MORE THAN 50 FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDED
VALLEY ELEMENTARY'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST.



STUDENT TONY ESTRADA SHOWS OFF HIS
BIG CATCH.



MIKE KOCZAN AND RENEE BOYDEN, ON
THE JOB AT CHELMSFORD HIGH
SCHOOL.



STUDENT ERIK REGO COOKING UP TURKEY
WITH CHEF BRIDGET FOR FRIENDSGIVING.

At Valley, We Love What We Do!

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The 2025 Dr. Anthony Bent Leadership Award will be presented to Heather MacKay, Valley Elementary School Principal. Previous award winners include:

2016 - Joia Mercurio, Deputy Director

2019 - Kari Morrin, Director of Human Resources

2020 - Sandra Morency, Lead Custodian

2021 - Jessica Scalzi, Lead Nurse

2022 - Nicole Noska, Valley Middle School & Valley Transitional High School Principal

2023 - Matthew Gentile, Director of DDS & MassAbility

2024 - Mazyar Moshtaghi, Chief Technology Officer

The School Spirit Award 2025

Deven Beltran (Valley Transitional High School - Transitional Programming)

Everett V. Olsen, Jr. Award for Highest Academic Honors 2025

Felicite Kodak, (Valley Transitional High School - Alternative Programming)

The Community Partner Award 2025

Billerica Town Hall

Valley Collaborative Retirees

We would like to thank our retirees for their many years of dedication and service to Valley's mission.

Vivi Leighton - 18 Years of service at Valley Elementary School as the Culinary Manager

Christopher Woodward - 5.5 Years of service at Valley Adult Program as Job Placement Specialist

meeting throughout the school year, we recognize students, individuals, and staff of the month who demonstrate Valley's core values. Below please find a comprehensive list of these awards recipients for the 2024 - 2025 school year- congratulations to all!

September 2024

Staff Making a Difference Awards

Technology Department: Mazyar Moshtaghi & Francisco Laureano

Maintenance/Facilities Department: Renato Silva, Sandra Morency, Fabio Agostinho, William G. Hernandez, Nobelia Bento

October 2024

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Patrick Carrier

Staff of the Month: Noah Colon

Valley Middle School

Student of the Month: Ivy Lefebvre

Staff of the Month: Rajeswari Ravichandran

Valley Transitional High School - Alternative Programming

Student of the Month: Robert Pirnie

Staff of the Month: Brittany Maiuri

Valley Transitional High School - Transitional Programming

Student of the Month: Brandon

Taipe

Staff of the Month: Madison Watford

Valley Adult Services

DDS/MRC Adult Program Participant: Jennifer Glidden

Staff of the Month: Rebecca Thibedore

Valley Collaborative - District Wide

Staff of the Month: Kari Morrin

December 2024

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Lindsey

Lavanga

Staff of the Month: Erin Frazier

Valley Middle School

Student of the Month: Dinitri Scott

Staff of the Month: Kali Rowe

Valley Transitional High School - Alternative Programming

Student of the Month: Tyler Marchand

Staff of the Month: Jake Smith

Valley Transitional High School - Transitional Programming

Student of the Month: Jack Murphy

Staff of the Month: Haley Parker

Valley Adult Services

DDS/MRC Adult Program Participant: Sharifah Namigadde

DDS Staff of the Month: Simeon

Zorokong

MRC Staff of the Month: Dayse

Doliver

Valley Collaborative - District Wide

Staff of the Month: Joia Mercurio, Nicole Noska, Nick LeClair, Heather Mackay, Kathleen Diaz, Donna Driscoll

January 2025

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Ethan Leonardo

Staff of the Month: Katelyn Rose

Valley Alternative Programming High School

Student of the Month: Felicite Kodak

Staff of the Month: Katharine Werner

Valley Transitional Programming Middle School

Student of the Month: Gabriella Ratanavong

Staff of the Month: Faithe Shatford

Valley Transitional Programming High School

Student of the Month: Luke Murphy

Staff of the Month: Leslie Ayers

At Valley, We Love What We Do!

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Valley Adult Services

Individual of the month: Jenna Boudrot

Staff of the Month: Maureen Lydon

April 2025

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Brody Romano

Staff of the Month: Rebecca Valcanas

Valley Middle School

Student of the Month: Rose Morin

Staff of the Month: Jaclyn Squeglia

Valley Transitional High School – Alternative Programming

Student of the Month: Madison Murray

Staff of the Month: Christine Brennick

Valley Transitional High School – Transitional Programming

Student of the Month: Sean McCarthy

Staff of the Month: Molly Doctor

Valley Adult Services

DDS/MRC Adult Program Participant: Rose Chen

Staff of the Month: Romario Honorat

Valley Collaborative – District Wide

Staff of the Month: Ian MacAulay, Fabio Agostinho, Sandra Morency, Francisco Laureano, Matthew Gentile, Holly Tierney, Benjamin Morrison, Maureen Lydon, Jessica Marcotte

June 2025

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Michael Sheehan

Staff of the Month: Nicole Rosa, Kathryn Richard, Renee Christian
Student of the Year: Louis Lourino

Valley Alternative Programming High School

Student of the Month: Phillip D. Hoffman IV

Staff of the Month: Vlad Stoicescu

Valley Transitional Programming Middle School

Student of the Month: Lexi Fuentes
Staff of the Month: Joanna Bazzinotti

Valley Transitional Programming High School

Student of the Month: Brittany Dorney

Staff of the Month: Scott Morin

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month: Jeremy Cyr

Staff of the Month: Ashlee Hamel

We are finalizing Valley's 2026-2031 District Improvement Plan facilitated by Dr. Lori Likis, Consultant with Creative Coaching. Dr. Lori Likis was the DESE consultant for school improvement planning. Prior to retirement, Dr. Likis was responsible for developing the school and district improvement planning protocols for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Valley was one of the original pilot sites for these protocols a decade ago. Valley was honored when Dr. Likis agreed to come out of retirement to help Valley develop its 2026-2031 five year District Improvement Plan. A great deal of work was accomplished this past school year and we are energized about executing the goals embedded in our new plan.

In order to obtain some baseline data for this five year plan, we surveyed Valley's 38 member Leadership Team and Valley's Member District Special Education Directors. This feedback along with the recent FY24 surveys for students, staff, and adult services participants gives us a great baseline for the new plan. I proudly share the results with you in this newsletter.

I wish you all a fun filled and safe summer. As you are aware, Valley doors are open 12 months of the year and we are looking forward to kicking off summer school on July 7th – see you then!



Chris A. Scott

A special thank you to all of our charitable donors

\$5000.00 - Enterprise Bank, Mr. George Duncan Chairman
\$2000.00 - The Torrice Family Charitable Trust
\$1500.00 - Charities Aid Foundations of America
\$500.00 - Powell Controls Inc
\$500.00 - Fritz Deguglielmo, LLC
\$300.00 - Marathas, Barrow & Weatherhead LLP
\$200.00 - Mary T. Conway
\$100.00 - Dr. Anthony J. Bent
\$100.00 - J.P. O'Connor Hardware, Inc
\$100.00 - Camelia and Florin Rosca
\$25.00 - Chip-In Farm, Inc

In Kind Donations:
Market Basket - \$25.00 Gift Cards (2)

Discussion of Status of Valley's Culture

Discussion of Status of Valley's Culture

Administrative Leadership
2024/2025 SY



1. What do you SEE in Valley's culture?

29 responses



2. What do you FEEL about Valley's culture?

38 responses



3. What do others SAY about Valley?

37 responses



Member District Special Education Directors Satisfaction Survey

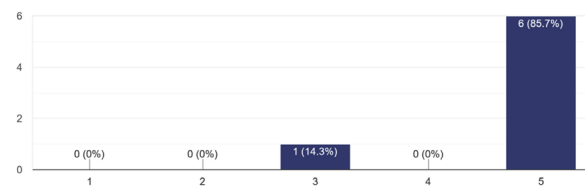
Member District Special Education Directors Satisfaction Survey

2024/2025 SY



1.) How responsive/timely is Valley Collaborative to your questions and concerns?

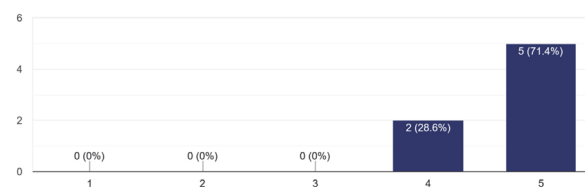
7 responses



Average rating (4.71)

2.) How effectively does Valley Collaborative address your out-of-district needs?

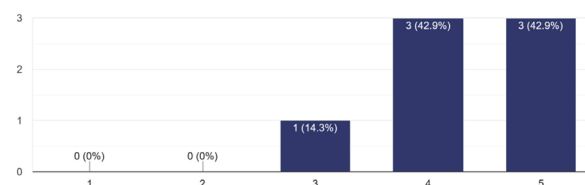
7 responses



Average rating (4.71)

3.) How would you rate your students' growth while attending Valley Collaborative?

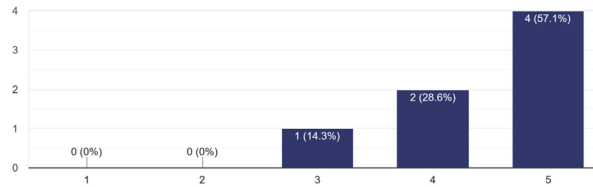
7 responses



Average rating (4.29)

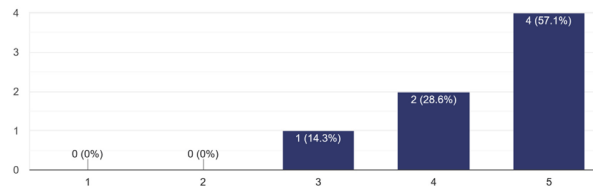
Member District Special Education Directors Satisfaction Survey

4.) How would you rate the feedback from your families and students regarding their time at Valley?
7 responses



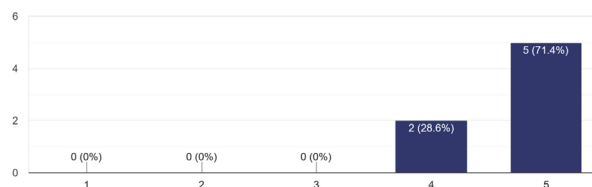
Average rating (4.43)

5.) How would you rate Valley Collaborative's staff in working with your students?
7 responses



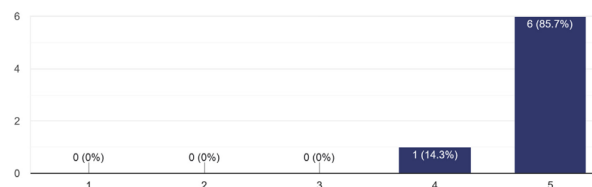
Average rating (4.43)

6.) How would you rate the professionalism of Valley's administrative team?
7 responses



Average rating (4.71)

7.) How likely are you to refer Valley Collaborative to your families who are seeking out-of-district placement?
7 responses

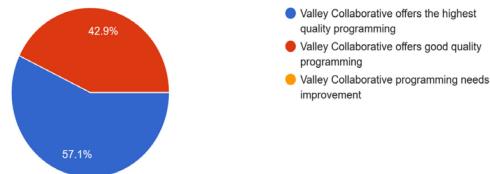


Average rating (4.86)

Member District Special Education Directors Satisfaction Survey

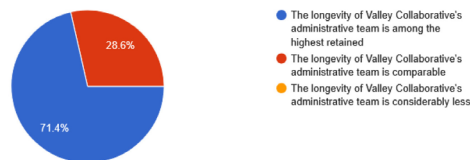
8.) How does the quality of Valley's programming compare to other out-of-district placements?

7 responses



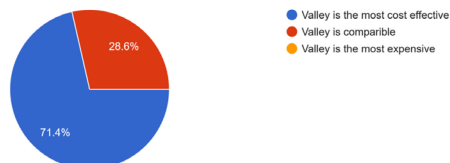
9.) We understand the continuity of staff is important to building productive professional relationships. How would you compare the retention of Valley Collaborative's administrative team to other out-of-district placement administrative teams?

7 responses



10.) How does Valley's tuition rates compare to other out-of-district placements?

7 responses



Please share any other feedback you would like Valley Collaborative to consider.

1 response

My experience with referrals at the elementary school is usually met with a need for a 1:1 even when the student does not have on their grid-I realize the students we are referring have behavioral needs-my concern is attaching the 1:1 so quickly into the process and then getting it out of the IEP months later proves to be a challenge as parents invoke and the removal of the service is a challenge. Not an easy answer just worth considering...thx

Valley Collaborative Leadership Team



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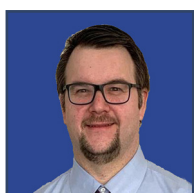
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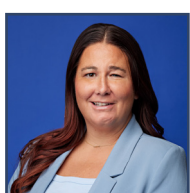
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Valley Collaborative Board



Dr. Jay Lang, chair

Superintendent, Chelmsford
Public Schools



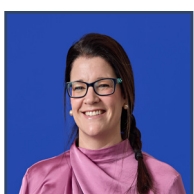
Dr. Geoff Bruno

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Dunstable Regional School
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**Ms. Brenda
Theriault-Regan**

Superintendent, Tewksbury
Public Schools



Dr. Kerry Clery

Superintendent, Billerica Public
Schools



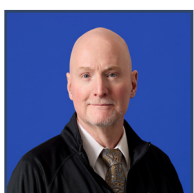
Dr. Denise Pigeon

Superintendent, Nashoba Valley
Technical School District



Dr. Michael Flanagan

Superintendent,
Tyngsborough Public Schools



Mr. Steven Stone

Superintendent, Dracut Public
Schools



Mr. Brad Morgan

Superintendent, North
Middlesex Regional School
District



**Dr. Christopher
Chew**

Superintendent, Westford Public
Schools

Valley Collaborative partners with families, districts, and the community to provide innovative programming that empowers all students and adults to discover their diverse individual strengths, interests, and abilities. In doing so, those we serve become self-actualized members of society who contribute in a responsible manner.